ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT (1-20-1993)

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From Wendsday January 20th, 1993, ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings. On this day Bill Clinton took office as the 42nd President of the United States.

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do solemnly swear this is our time he said let us embrace it the man from arkansas fulfills his dream to become president of the united from states this is world news tonight with peter jennings reporting tonight from washington good evening you've probably heard it said before today the world's most powerful nation conducts its democracy in such a civilized way that it is almost magical it is by definition very simple the constitution requires only that an incoming president swear in 35 words to faithfully execute his office and defend the constitution but it's hardly ever been that simple today's inauguration of bill clinton was brimming with ceremony and celebration it was a beautiful cool winter day when president bush and president-elect clinton arrived on the western side of the capitol building the choir was from little rock arkansas the marine band has been here since thomas jefferson [Music] marilyn horn the great mezzo soprano friend of bills sang about cultural diversity [Music] [Applause] [Music] answer to protect and defend the constitution of the united states

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the united states so help me god so help me god congratulations hail to the new chief the 42nd president of the united states ladies and gentlemen we know we have to face hard truths and take strong steps but we have not done so instead we have drifted and that drifting has eroded our resources fractured our economy and shaken our confidence there is nothing wrong with america that cannot be cured by what is right with america and so today we pledge an end to the era of deadlock and drift and a new season of american renewal has begun it will not be easy it will require sacrifice but it can be done and done fairly not choosing sacrifice for its own sake but for our own sake we must provide for our nation the way a family provides for its children from this joyful mountaintop of celebration we hear a call to service in the valley we have heard the trumpets we have changed the guard and now each in our own way and with god's help we must answer the call thank you and god bless you all the writer and poet maya angelou also raised in arkansas had been asked to write an inaugural

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write an inaugural poem here on the path of this new day you may have the grace to look up and out and into your sister's eyes and into your brother's face your country and say simply very simply with hope good morning once again in the spirit of democracy power is handed from one man to another in a peaceful and orderly fashion that's a taste of it up on the capitol hill today for days now george bush has deliberately stayed out of the public eye no photo ops at cabinet meetings no final big speech to his staff nothing to interfere with the week that really belongs not to the old president but to the new abc's great hume tonight on the changing of the guard the biggest day of his political life began for bill clinton and his family and his running mate in his in church at a black church here in washington where the music and the words moved him to tears [Music] later as he and his family left blair house they were running late this was a day when the constitutionally mandated noon swearing-in would not wait and clinton seemed for a moment at least anxious across the street at the white house george bush had spent part of his last hours as president taking a

reflective walk on the white house south grounds and visiting one last time the oval office where he had left the traditional note to his successor this may have been a painful day for him but he seemed determined not to show it as he greeted the clintons clinton seemed almost a trip over the dog milly but the family's meeting was otherwise smooth mr bush was asked what he had said in that note to clinton

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by now a huge throng had gathered under bright sunshine to witness the day's ceremonies which began as always with the stately procession carrying both the president and president-elect to capitol hill at the capitol clinton reaching always to touch to reach everyone around him was led through the building the new president's address was devoted to the need to change what george bush had left him but he took time nonetheless to acknowledge mr bush on behalf of our nation i salute my predecessor president bush for his half century of service to america [Applause] the standing ovation that drew from the politicians of both parties on the platform made it the biggest applause line in the speech it was a highly thematic speech in which the words change or renewal appeared 17 times and set for clinton ambitious goals we must invest more in our own people in their jobs and in their future and at the same time cut our massive debt and we must do so in a world in which we must compete for every opportunity afterward mr clinton as his customary bid mr bush farewell as the now former president began his journey back to texas it is likely to be mr bush's last ride on the government aircraft that had been for his use only at the traditional lunch with leaders of congress the new president received a framed color photograph of his just completed in proof that congress can get things done fast when it wants to the clintons and gore's first view of the inaugural parade was from the capitol steps where they watched it start when the clintons joined the parade in a limousine the huge crowds along their route plainly hoped they would get out of it often they finally did get out during the final four blocks and walk the rest of the way the new president this time resisting

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the new president this time resisting any urge he might have felt to shake hands with everyone all new presidents promised change but bill clinton more than most made change the centerpiece of his election the throngs gathered here this week to celebrate are testament to the power of that message the expectations of these people and the belief that bill clinton can meet them are at once his blessing and his burden britt hume abc news the white house thank you brittany the moment we'll go back to president clinton's inaugural speech as our broadcast continues from washington well the inaugural speech always gets a lot of attention we suspect the media get a lot more worked up over these things than most other americans do there's going to be an awful lot of second guessing for the next couple of days about the impact and the eloquence of mr clinton's inaugural address will it turn out to be memorable abc's jeff greenfield was watching and inevitably comparing my fellow citizens if bill clinton's first presidential speech had a familiar ring it was clearly by design the man who said his life in politics was inspired by his meeting with john kennedy echo jfk's 1961 inaugural in tone and in substance let the word go forth from this time and place that the torch has been passed to a new generation of americans i challenge a new generation of young americans to a season of service let us begin let us begin anew with energy and hope at times he even seemed to be answering kennedy across the generations now the trumpet summons us again we have heard the trumpets we have changed the guard and throughout his inaugural clinton echoed the now familiar style of kennedy's speech let us never negotiate out of fear but let us never fear to negotiate though we marched to the music of our time our mission is timeless but if the memory of kennedy dominated most of the speech there was another figure lurking over

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there was another figure lurking over bill clinton's shoulder h ross perot in the most distinctive and personal section of the inaugural clinton was at pains to show that he shared perot's vision of a capital populated by too much ego vanity and selfishness powerful people maneuver for position and worry endlessly about who is in and who is out who is up and who is down forgetting those people whose toil and sweat sends us here

and pays our way and perhaps because his transition has been beset by charges that he has too many washington insiders around him there was this let us resolve to reform our politics so that power and privilege no longer shout down the voice of the people let us give this capital back to the people to whom it belongs the themes of renewal and sacrifice and hope are common to almost all inaugurals but the heavy kennedy echo in mr clinton's first presidential address suggests that in matters of formal rhetoric the new president is still looking for his own voice jeff greenfield abc news washington well with us all day here has been david brinkley watching what's going on you have some impression i do peter it was oscar wilde who said nothing succeeds like excess well when it comes to excess we're pretty good at it in ronald reagan's inaugural it was decided in one of the men's clubs in washington to make a cheesecake to send to his inaugural party several restaurant chefs were invited to work on it they fell to work with such energy and enthusiasm that the cape kept growing and growing when finished it weighed 3742 pounds so heavy nobody could lift it and they couldn't move it into reagan's party because it was too big to go through the door excessive yes but they enjoyed it and this country has plenty of cheese maybe the clinton inaugural parade was excessive it was the biggest and longest ever ran for hours

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ever ran for hours but a lot of young people sold doughnuts and washed cars to raise money to come to washington and march down pennsylvania playing trombones while everybody in their hometowns watched so what's excessive peter certainly david thanks enjoyed your company when we continue from washington the white house in transition who is in charge here [Music] while the inaugural parade was still rolling along down pennsylvania avenue president bush arrived back home in houston used to be air force one it is now air force two this is the first minute of the beginning of our new life and i can't think of any place better to start than right here before we began our political life houston texas [Applause] while the handoff between the two men president bush and president clinton went smoothly and even graciously there were a few awkward moments at the white house today here's abc's bill greenwood as a moving van arrived with the clinton family's personal effects and president bush's dog ranger was being chauffeured away the white house was virtually deserted time to move along but republicans were not about to surrender the building until high noon it's still our shop for another 45 minutes still try to find someone in charge even at noon when democrats tried to take over maybe have an idea we're supposed to be cleared as staff and they haven't let us in yet when george bush left office about 500 white house staff members left with him and because the clinton team was not ready with replacements for all of them volunteers were called in to keep the government going the republicans didn't give up their offices until the last minute and were coming in

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last minute and were coming in when president clinton finally arrived at the white house himself he seemed less concerned about his staff than his stuff hoping everything made it in one piece bill greenwood abc news washington as one of his last official acts as president mr bush this morning sent congress a summation of why he ordered three attacks on iraq in the last seven days saddam hussein is now president clinton's problem this afternoon the senate confirmed the top members of president clinton's foreign policy team less aspen as defense secretary and warren christopher as the secretary of state here's abc's john mccarthy while the nation was focused on the inauguration a rapid transition was underway at the pentagon a quick carpet cleaning in the office of the secretary of defense a change of name plates outside the door though defense secretary cheney said his goodbyes yesterday president bush concerned that there be no lapse in running the pentagon ordered cheney to stay in office an extra four hours today this gave the new defense secretary les aspen time to be officially confirmed by the senate and sworn in before dawn this morning brent scowcroft the departing national security advisor went to blair house to brief bill clinton in detail about the trouble spots that have demanded so much attention during this transition there was no fighting today in the skies of iraq but at the u.n officials were already preparing to test saddam hussein's peace offering to america's new president the u.n filed flight plans for 70 weapons inspectors to return to iraq tomorrow in somalia where the u.s still has more than 20 000 troops an american soldier was wounded today by gunfire

and around haiti the u.s coast guard and navy are trying to prevent people from fleeing their country because they believe bill clinton might let them come to america even before the celebration was over this afternoon president clinton was interrupted by his

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president clinton was interrupted by his new secretary of state it appeared that the weight of all the problems overseas was already settling onto the new president's shoulders john mcquathy abc news washington and overseas in bosnia-herzegovina serbian leaders have voted yes on the united nations peace plan the idea of carving up bosnia into ten separate ethnic enclaves it's just a first step now they have to work out the map and there is still no ceasefire we'll have more of the day's news in a moment when our broadcast continues from washington [Music] finally for us this evening all this talk about renewal and hope from the new president you can bet that a lot of political observers will say we've heard that kind of talk before but in the crowds today there were a lot of people saying maybe this time it will be different here's abc's jim wooten of all the many thousands who gathered on the mall consider norma stewart and why she was there today it's very important it's the first time i'm witnessing the changing of the guards norma stewart born in belize just became a citizen a new american come to see a new president and hear his promise of a new beginning for the country she's catching on fast we need hope that was the word on the mall today hope little hope can you imagine that a little home it's a fragile concept at best but it was hail and hearty in this crowd packed with believers among whom skepticism and doubt were unwelcome strangers tell you what i'm a watergate baby i watched nixon resign when i was 10 years old i've been cynical about politics all my life and it feels great ah because hope is in us all at all times and it's been

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in us all at all times and it's been submerged but it just had to bubble up this time and considered jenny rucker too hasn't seen an inauguration in nearly 50 years came from denver to see mr clinton's he generates energy and see we're all sort of oh well we can't do any better but this guy says hey we can do better and he's young enough young enough to persuade her and so many others on the mall today that it's not going to be business as usual and the key to that faith a four-letter word hope i can't say he's gonna be like the rest of him i just gotta have i gotta hold on to it the hope that he has promised us and i'm keep on praying that this was going to come true his hopes were fulfilled today and will to the best of my ability and will to the best of my ability preserve protect and defend the constitution of the united states and defend the constitution of the united states so help me god so help me god jim wooten abc news washington that's our report on world news tonight i'm peter jennings nightline later on the new president tomorrow mr clinton opens the white house doors to the public for a few hours and will report on his first full day in office we'll see you then good night you

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